

West and Midlands Iris Group Annual Show

Highnam Community Hall – 24 May 2026

This year's show took place on what was almost the hottest May day on record—only narrowly beaten by the following day. The heat was matched by the enthusiasm of our members, who arrived with such an abundance of irises that we came close to running out of vases and had to improvise. Visitors arrived in excellent numbers, and their many questions kept us busy throughout the afternoon.

With thirteen members exhibiting a total of **122 entries**, this was our largest show for more than eight years. The cold spell earlier in the month, followed by a sudden warm week, brought the bearded irises into perfect condition, while the Siberian and species irises—though slightly early—still produced a very respectable display. Several new members exhibited for the first time and performed exceptionally well. **Robert Fish** secured a first place in a strongly contested class, and the **Novice Class** was hotly fought, with **Lou Nichols** taking the top spot. **Selwyn Lane** also secured a 2nd place in Class 16.

Class Results

Class 1

1st Lou Nichols



2nd Robert Fish



Class 3

1st Tony Isaacs

2nd Anne Milner & Judy Pollitt



Class 4

1st Tony Isaacs

2nd Brenda Nickels

3rd Tony Isaacs

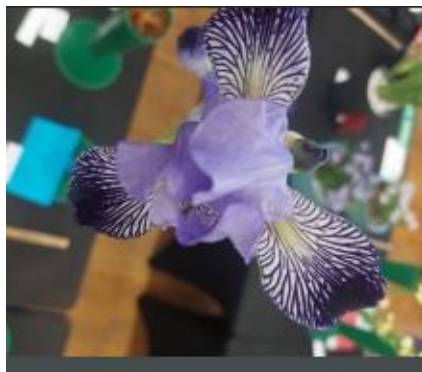


Class 5

1st Jeremy Handy

2nd Fern Harden

3rd Fern Harden



Class 6

1st Tony Isaacs



2nd Fern Harden

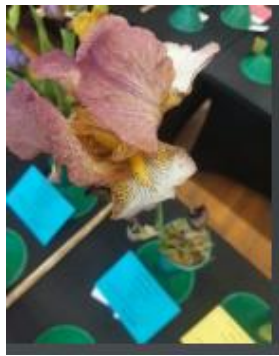


Class 7

1st Anne Milner



2nd Carol Poulton



3rd Anne Milner



Class 8

1st Fern Harden



2nd Tony Isaacs

3rd Carol Poulton



Class 9

1st Fern Harden

2nd Anne Milner

3rd Anne Milner



Class 10 |

1st Anne Milner

2nd James Watson

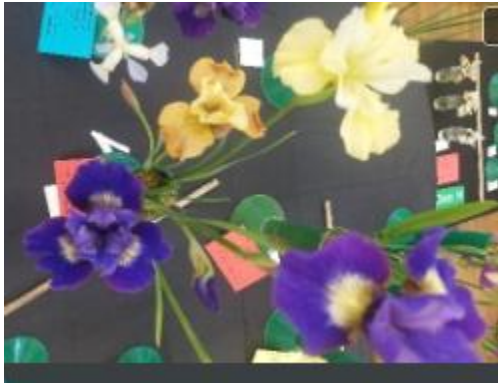
3rd Judy Pollitt



Class 11

1st Fern Harden

2nd Alun & Jill Whitehead



Class 12

1st Robert Fish 2nd Fern Harden 3rd Judy Pollitt



Class 13

2nd Alun & Jill Whitehead

Class 14

1st Alun & Jill Whitehead



Class 15

1st Fern Harden

2nd Brenda Nickels

3rd Jackie Bostock



Class 16

1st Jackie Bostock

2nd Selwyn Lane

3rd Brenda Nickels



Class 17

1st Brenda Nickels

2nd Fern Harden

3rd Fern Harden



Class 18

1st Fern Harden



Class 19

1st Fern Harden 2nd Tony Isaacs



Class 20

1st Jeremy Handy 2nd Jeremy Handy 3rd Fern Harden

Class 21

1st Jeremy Handy

We also had a Photographic Display by Members of the Stroud Museum Walled Garden Group which a delight to see and was given a Highly Commended award. Part of the display is shown below.



Trophies and Awards

Best in Show went jointly to Tony Isaacs, for his Class 4 entry. Shared the **Shropshire Cup** with **Jackie Bostock**, whose entry into class 16 also claimed Jackie the **Hereford Trophy**.

Fern Harden won the **Malvern Bowl** for the best Siberian iris, as well as the **Rainbow Trophy** for the best bearded iris flowers. These achievements also earned Fern the **Somerset bowl** for the highest total points in the show.

The **Gloucester Cup** went to **Lou Nickels** for the class 1.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

The warm, friendly atmosphere was greatly enhanced by the committee and members, who spent the afternoon chatting with visitors, answering questions, and selling seeds and plants. A special thank-you goes to **Sheila**, whose tireless supply of tea and cakes kept everyone refreshed and cheerful.

One much-missed presence this year was **Fred**, a long-standing member known for his superb irises and the many trophies he won with varieties of his own breeding. We learned that he had been unwell, and sadly he passed away shortly after the show. The finest tribute we can offer is the strength of this year's display—proof that the knowledge and passion he shared with us continue to flourish.